

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) Method for the preparation of a bioavailable silicic acid including extrudate, comprising:

forming stabilized silicic acid, by hydrolysing a silicon compound into orthosilicic acid and/or oligomers thereof in the presence of a stabilizing agent, which is a quaternary ammonium compound, ~~or an amino acid, or an amino acid source or combinations thereof~~ consisting essentially of choline;

mixing the stabilized silicic acid with a carrier in an amount up to the loading capacity of the carrier for silicic acid; and

extruding the resulting mixture thereby forming the extrudate that provides the stabilized silicic acid in a bioavailable solid form.

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein silicic acid is orthosilicic acid and/or oligomers.

3. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound is choline chloride.

4-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the stabilized silicic acid comprises a silicon content of 2.5-3.5% by volume, a choline content of 65-75% by weight and a water content of 15-25% by weight.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is mixed with the stabilised silicic acid in a ratio of 65-50% and 35-50% respectively.

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is cellulose or a derivatives thereof such as microcrystalline cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, and cellulose gum and/or other carriers or combinations selected from sugars such as lactose, pectines and alginates, poly- and oligosaccharaides such as malto-dextrine, glucans and derivatives thereof, starch and derivatives thereof, and natural and semi-synthetic fibers, protein and protein hydrolysates.

9. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is microcrystalline cellulose and the loading capacity for stabilised silicic acid < 50%.

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the extrudate is spheronized into particles.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the particles are dried, preferably having a particle size between about 800 to about 1200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 2, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound is choline chloride.

16-20. (Cancelled).